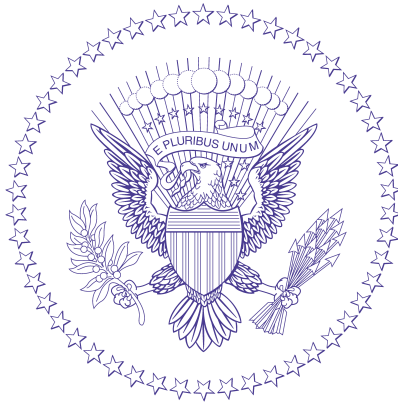


PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES



PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES

# George W. Bush



## 2006

(IN TWO BOOKS)

BOOK I—JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2006



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## *Foreword*

This volume collects my speeches and papers from the first half of 2006.

As the year opened, I appeared before the Congress to deliver my annual State of the Union message. In this speech, I called for an ambitious agenda to strengthen our Nation's economy and ensure that our Nation remained competitive in the world. I proposed the Advanced Energy Initiative, a plan to harness the power of technology to reduce America's dependence on foreign sources of energy. I presented a strategy to reform health care for the 21st century by making it more affordable, portable, and efficient. And I introduced the American Competitiveness Initiative—a bold plan to support science and technology by investing in research and development, education, and entrepreneurship.

During these 6 months, I toured the Nation to promote these initiatives and other important domestic priorities. In March, I traveled to New Orleans to discuss the Federal Government's continued commitment to rebuilding communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina. During the spring, I visited a variety of States to encourage Americans to take part in the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. And as summer approached, I visited California, New Mexico, Nebraska, and Arizona to highlight the need for the Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

On May 15, I addressed the Nation from the Oval Office on this vital issue. I said, "Our new immigrants are just what they've always been—people willing to risk everything for the dream of freedom. And America remains what she has always been: the great hope on the horizon, an open door to the future, a blessed and promised land. We honor the heritage of all who come here, no matter where they come from, because we trust in our country's genius for making us all Americans—one Nation under God."

During this period, we took decisive action on several key priorities for our Nation's future. In March, I signed the "USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005"—legislation that gave our country's intelligence and law enforcement officials vital tools to protect our citizens from threats such as international terrorists and drug dealers. In May, I was proud to sign into law a bill that extended tax relief for American families and businesses. And in June, I signed a proclamation creating the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument—the largest single conservation area in the history of our country, and the largest fully protected marine area in the world.

This was a time when many talented and able Americans were appointed to the highest levels of the Federal Government. In January, Samuel Alito was confirmed by the United States Senate as the Supreme Court's newest Associate Justice. Less than a week later, Ben Bernanke was sworn in as our Nation's 14th Chairman of

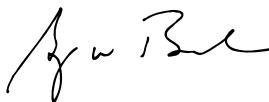
the Federal Reserve. In May, General Michael Hayden was appointed to be the new Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. And during this period, I also welcomed two new members to my cabinet—Dirk Kempthorne as Secretary of the Interior and Henry Paulson as Secretary of the Treasury.

As we focused on these key priorities at home, my Administration remained engaged in vital issues around the world. In March, the First Lady and I traveled to Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan to demonstrate America's commitment to strong partnerships in that vital region. While in Afghanistan, I was able to witness firsthand how America's men and women in uniform were combating radicalism and creating a more hopeful future for the Afghan people. After years under the radical Taliban regime, Afghanistan was transforming into a country where entrepreneurs had the freedom to pursue opportunity, journalists had the freedom to ask questions, and, at long last, girls had the freedom to receive an education. I praised this progress and let the Afghan people know that America's commitment to them remained firm.

Later that month, I visited Mexico, where I met with Mexican President Vicente Fox and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to discuss an agenda of security and prosperity for North America. In June, I attended a summit meeting between the United States and the European Union. On this trip, Laura and I visited Austria and Hungary, and I reaffirmed America's commitment to work with our European allies to promote peace, human rights, and democracy worldwide.

Finally, this period saw both setbacks and successes in the continued struggle for Iraq's future. Despite the destruction sparked by the terrorist bombing of a sacred Shiite mosque in Samarra, the Iraqi people banded together to form their first unity government in April. In May, Nouri Al-Maliki became Prime Minister of Iraq and presented his cabinet to the new government. And in June, United States military forces killed Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi, the operational commander of the terrorist movement in Iraq—a dramatic victory in the War on Terror.

Less than a week after Zarqawi was brought to justice, I made a surprise visit to Iraq, where I spent time with the men and women of our Armed Forces and met with the new Prime Minister. Upon my return, I told the American people, "I traveled to Baghdad to personally show our Nation's commitment to a free Iraq, because it is vital for the Iraqi people to know with certainty that America will not abandon them after we have come this far. The challenges that remain in Iraq are serious. We face determined enemies who remain intent on killing the innocent, and defeating these enemies will require more sacrifice and the continued patience of our country. But our efforts in Iraq are well worth it, the mission is necessary for the security of our country, and we will succeed." In the months to come, our country's patience would indeed be tested, but our determination to safeguard our Nation and help foster a free Iraq would prevail.



## *Preface*

This book contains the papers and speeches of the 43d President of the United States that were issued by the Office of the Press Secretary during the period January 1–June 30, 2006. The material has been compiled and published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration.

The material is presented in chronological order, and the dates shown in the headings are the dates of the documents or events. In instances when the release date differs from the date of the document itself, that fact is shown in the textnote. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy: Remarks are checked against a tape recording, and signed documents are checked against the original. Textnotes and cross references have been provided by the editors for purposes of identification or clarity. At the request of the Office of the Press Secretary, the Bush property known as Prairie Chapel Ranch in Crawford, Texas, is referred to simply as the Bush Ranch. Speeches were delivered in Washington, DC, unless indicated. The times noted are local times. All materials that are printed full-text in the book have been indexed in the subject and name indexes, and listed in the document categories list.

The Public Papers of the Presidents series was begun in 1957 in response to a recommendation of the National Historical Publications Commission. An extensive compilation of messages and papers of the Presidents covering the period 1789 to 1897 was assembled by James D. Richardson and published under congressional authority between 1896 and 1899. Since then, various private compilations have been issued, but there was no uniform publication comparable to the Congressional Record or the United States Supreme Court Reports. Many Presidential papers could be found only in the form of mimeographed White House releases or as reported in the press. The Commission therefore recommended the establishment of an official series in which Presidential writings, addresses, and remarks of a public nature could be made available.

The Commission's recommendation was incorporated in regulations of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, issued under section 6 of the Federal Register Act (44 U.S.C. 1506), which may be found in title 1, part 10, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

A companion publication to the Public Papers series, the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, was begun in 1965 to provide a broader range of Presidential materials on a more timely basis to meet the needs of the contemporary reader. Beginning with the administration of Jimmy Carter, the Public Papers series expanded its coverage to include additional material as printed in the Weekly Compilation. That coverage provides a listing of the President's daily schedule and meetings, when announced, and other items of general interest issued by the Office of

the Press Secretary. Also included are lists of the President's nominations submitted to the Senate, materials released by the Office of the Press Secretary that are not printed full-text in the book, and proclamations, Executive orders, and other Presidential documents released by the Office of the Press Secretary and published in the *Federal Register*. This information appears in the appendixes at the end of the book.

Volumes covering the administrations of Presidents Herbert Hoover, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, and William J. Clinton are also included in the Public Papers series.

The Public Papers of the Presidents publication program is under the direction of Frances D. McDonald, Managing Editor, Office of the Federal Register. The series is produced by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit. The Chief Editor of this book was Stacey A. Mulligan, assisted by William K. Banks, Loretta F. Cochran, Lois Davis, Kathleen M. Fargey, Stephen J. Frattini, Michael J. Forcina, Allison M. Gavin, Gwendolyn J. Henderson, Diane Hiltabidle, Alfred Jones, Joshua H. Liberatore, Heather N. McDaniel, Ashley Merusi, Amelia E. Otovo, Jennifer M. Partridge, D. Gregory Perrin, Matthew R. Regan, and Michael J. Sullivan.

The frontispiece and photographs used in the portfolio were supplied by the White House Photo Office. The typography and design of the book were developed by the Government Printing Office under the direction of Robert C. Tapella, Public Printer.

Raymond A. Mosley  
*Director of the Federal Register*

David S. Ferriero  
*Archivist of the United States*



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## *Cabinet*

Secretary of State .....	Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of the Treasury .....	John W. Snow (resigned 6/30) Henry M. Paulson, Jr. (confirmed 6/28)
Secretary of Defense .....	Donald H. Rumsfeld
Attorney General .....	Alberto R. Gonzales
Secretary of the Interior .....	Gale A. Norton (resigned 3/31) Dirk Kempthorne (confirmed 5/26)
Secretary of Agriculture .....	Mike Johanns
Secretary of Commerce .....	Carlos M. Gutierrez
Secretary of Labor .....	Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Health and Human Services .....	Michael O. Leavitt
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development .....	Alphonso R. Jackson
Secretary of Transportation .....	Norman Y. Mineta (resigned 7/7) Mary E. Peters (confirmed 9/30)
Secretary of Energy .....	Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary of Education .....	Margaret Spellings

Secretary of Veterans Affairs .....	R. James Nicholson
Secretary of Homeland Security .....	Michael Chertoff
Chief of Staff .....	Andrew H. Card, Jr. (resigned 4/14) Joshua B. Bolten (appointed 4/14)
Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency .....	Stephen L. Johnson
United States Trade Representative .....	Robert J. Portman (resigned 5/30) Susan C. Schwab (confirmed 6/8)
Director of the Office of Management and Budget .....	Joshua B. Bolten (resigned 4/14) Robert J. Portman (confirmed 5/26)
Director of National Drug Control Policy .....	John P. Walters